

The Examiner first rejected claims 21-24 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Colella. Applicant has amended claims 21, 24, and 30 to overcome the Examiner's rejection. Claim 21 now calls for "a means for storing a welding-type accessory inside of the welding-type power supply *wherein the means for storing is removably positioned inside the welding-type power supply.*" Claim 24 now calls for a welding-type power supply wherein a "storage compartment is *slidingly* disposed inside of the welding-type power supply." Claim 30 has been amended to more clearly define that the "storage compartment is located inside of the welding-type power supply and *slidingly extends outside of the welding-type power supply.*" Applicant believes the claims, as amended, define over Colella. As such, Applicant believes claims 21, 24, and 30, and those claims that depend therefrom now patentably define over the art of record.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-6, 11-15, 20, 25, 26, 31, and 32 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Colella in view of Brofft et al. (US Patent Application 2002/0163196). Applicant respectfully disagrees. Colella discloses a self contained and fully integrated welder/generator and compressor unit. Col. 1, lns. 59-60. The unit also includes a storage compartment for welding tools, nail guns, and the like within the housing. Col. 2, lns. 27-30. Colella goes on to state: "As best seen in Fig. 3, the air accumulator tank 38 is mounted in the bottom portion of the housing 14, and it has a vertical height substantially less than the vertical height of the housing 40, whereby horizontal shelf 14 may be fixed in the housing above the air accumulator tank 38 to provide a large storage area 42 in which any desire welding tools (not shown) used with the portable unit 10 may be conveniently stored". Col. 3, lns. 15-23. That is, the storage compartment of Colella is that space within the housing that is not occupied by the individual components of the unit. As such, the storage compartment of Colella is not a drawer and is not movable with respect to the unit.

The Examiner further states that Colella discloses that "a control panel is included in the power supply and the storage compartment is disposed above at least a portion of the control panel." Such is not the case. Viewing Fig. 1 and Fig. 3, it is clear that the storage area 42, as shown in Fig. 3, is on an opposite side of the unit 10 from control panel 66, as shown in Fig. 1. As such, the storage compartment is not above the control panel as suggested by the Examiner, but is actually on an opposite side of the unit from the control panel.

In the analysis of Brofft et al. the Examiner states, "Brofft et al. teach a welding power supply in which a drawer is used for storage (see U.S. 2002/0163196; particularly paragraphs 19 and 29)." Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Initially, it is noted that the present application was filed January 22, 2002, and the Brofft et al. reference was filed May 4, 2001. Even though Applicant reserves the right to antedate the Brofft et al. reference, Applicant believes that there are marked distinctions between the present claims and that disclosed by Brofft et al. and therefore, elects to distinguish the present invention over Brofft et al.

Brofft et al. states that: "In further related aspect, the invention features an integrated electrical and/or mechanical power generating unit having a lower housing portion sized to fit within a pickup truck bed, and an upper housing portion sized to extend over at least one bed wall, *where the lower housing portion includes feet extending downwardly therefrom, to suspend a bottom side of the lower housing above the floor of the truck bed, and thereby permit access to the bed floor beneath the power generating unit* for, e.g., a storage drawer or hauling elongated cargo such as plywood sheets." Brofft et al. at Paragraph 19, (emphasis added). Additionally, referring to Fig. 1, Brofft et al. discloses that "feet 18a and 18b create a space or gap 20 beneath lower housing portion 10c which may be used for a storage drawer or for elongated cargo such as plywood sheets." Id. at Paragraph 0029. As such, the storage drawer mentioned after the emphasized portion in Paragraph 0019 is not included in the welding-type device. In fact, Paragraph 0029 simply discloses that there is a space under the unit that can be used for a storage drawer or for elongated cargo.

Claim 1, on the other hand, calls for a drawer that is disposed inside of the welding-type power supply. Claim 12 calls for a storage compartment disposed inside of the welding-type power supply wherein the storage compartment is movable. Claim 25 specifically calls for a drawer integrated into the welding-type power supply. Claim 26 has been amended to clarify that it is the drawer that is inside of the welding-type power supply. Both claims 31 and 32 call for the drawer to be disposed inside of the welding-type power supply, in one form or another.

Additionally, if it is the Examiner's position that the storage drawer of Brofft et al. is integral to the unit, Applicant submits that if that were the case, the drawer is not integral to the welder device of the unit. Specifically, "the unit's housing includes a closet space for receiving the welding power supply so that the welding power supply can be used when "docked" inside the housing, or positioned remotely. This feature permits the welding power supply and its associated controls to be moved from location of the rest of the unit to a remote position more convenient to the work site." Brofft et al., Paragraph 0022. Additionally, "FIG. 5 further illustrates the removable power welding unit 44, which is installed into lower housing portion 10c through door 24. As noted above, welding power supply 44 is portable and can be carried to work site or

As discussed above, the combination of references cited by the Examiner does not result in a movable storage compartment that is contained within the welding-type power supply as called for in the pending claims. As such, Applicant believes claims 1, 12, 25, 26, 29, 31, and 32, and those claims that depend therefrom, are patentably distinct over the art of record.

In light of the Examiner's 35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejection of claims 21, 24, and 30, Applicant believes these claims, and those that depend therefrom, are also in condition for allowance over the art of record.

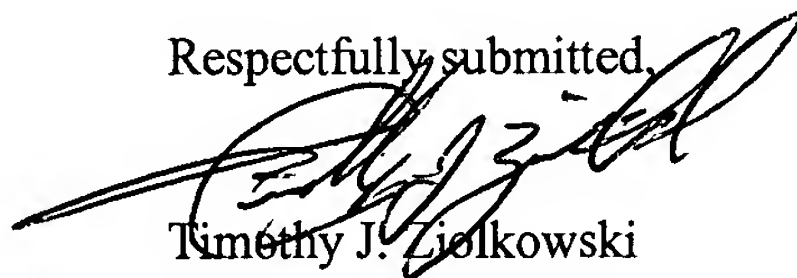
Therefore, in light of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully believes that the present application is in condition for allowance. As a result, Applicant respectfully requests timely issuance of a Notice of Allowance for claims 1-32.

An Information Disclosure Statement is also enclosed herewith with the corresponding newly cited references.

Marked-up versions of the amendments made above may be found on page 6.

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's consideration of these Amendments and Remarks and cordially invites the Examiner to call the undersigned, should the Examiner consider any matters unresolved.

Respectfully submitted,



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REVISIONS

IN THE CLAIMS

21. (Once Amended) An apparatus comprising:
a welding-type power supply; and
means for storing welding-type accessory inside of the welding-type power supply wherein the means for storing is removably stored inside the welding-type power supply.

24. (Once Amended) An apparatus comprising:
a welding-type power supply; and
a storage compartment having a height, a width and a depth, wherein the height, width, and depth of the storage compartment are sufficient to accommodate a torch usable with the welding-type power supply, and further wherein the storage compartment is slidingly disposed inside of the welding-type power supply.

26. (Once Amended) An apparatus comprising a drawer wherein the apparatus drawer is configured to mount inside of a welding-type power supply such that the drawer is movable in and out of the welding-type power supply.

30. (Once Amended) An apparatus comprising a storage compartment sized to store a torch usable by a welding-type power supply wherein the storage compartment is located inside of the welding-type power supply and slidingly extends outside of the welding-type power supply.